



Our ref: WQ88904

Jane Dodds MS
Senedd Regional Member for Mid and West Wales

Jane.Dodds@senedd.wales

6 September 2023

Dear Jane,

Thank you for your recent written question asking me what action the Welsh Government has taken since the publication of Women's Rights Network's report earlier this year on sexual violence in hospitals, to ensure that vulnerable patients are safe from sexual assault.

These are truly horrific and despicable crimes. Welsh NHS bodies have a duty to provide an environment that promotes the safety and security for adults and children in our care. It is essential that we fully understand whether there are any further measures we need to take to improve or strengthen our arrangements.

All allegations of sexual assault on NHS Wales premises must be reported by health bodies to the police and are subject to local safeguarding arrangements. Additionally, all health bodies are expected to report nationally reportable incidents, including allegations of sexual assault, to the NHS Wales Executive at the earliest opportunity. Such incidents are subject to investigation by health bodies in accordance with the requirements set out in the National Health Service (Concerns, Complaints and Redress Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2011. Investigation outcomes, actions and learning must be submitted to the NHS Wales Executive.

The NHS Wales Executive provides an assurance function to ensure information shared about investigations is of good quality, utilises a suitable approach and is undertaken in a timely manner. Data and intelligence from nationally reportable incidents will be used by the NHS Wales Executive to inform local and national assurance activities.

The NHS Wales Executive is leading a group to coordinate a robust and thorough response to the WRN report, and to provide assurance that NHS organisations are implementing best practice to promote a culture of sexual safety. The group will create an informed understanding of the data available to NHS Wales organisations regarding sexual assault and rape, assess current processes around reported incidences of sexual assault and rape in the NHS Wales estate, and explore the support offered to victims. It will agree steps to monitor the issue and provide assurance that safeguards are in place.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The Group includes appropriate senior experts across NHS Wales, including leaders in Safeguarding, Quality and Safety, and Sexual Assault Services.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

Eluned Morgan AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services